

## FUR LABELING

JULY 27, 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. O'HARA, from the committee of conference, submitted the following

### CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2321]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 2321) to protect consumers and others against misbranding, false advertising, and false invoicing of fur products and furs, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment insert the following: *That this Act may be cited as the "Fur Products Labeling Act".*

SEC. 2. As used in this Act—

(a) The term "person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, business trust, or any organized group of any of the foregoing.

(b) The term "fur" means any animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state, but shall not include such skins as are to be converted into leather or which in processing shall have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber completely removed.

(c) The term "used fur" means fur in any form which has been worn or used by an ultimate consumer.

(d) The term "fur product" means any article of wearing apparel made in whole or in part of fur or used fur; except that such term shall not include such articles as the Commission shall exempt by reason of the relatively small quantity or value of the fur or used fur contained therein.

(e) The term "waste fur" means the ears, throats, or scrap pieces which have been severed from the animal pelt, and shall include mats or plates made therefrom.

(f) The term "invoice" means a written account, memorandum, list, or catalog, which is issued in connection with any commercial dealing in fur products or furs, and describes the particulars of any fur products or furs, transported or delivered to a purchaser, consignee, factor, bailee, correspondent, or agent, or any other person who is engaged in dealing commercially in fur products or furs.

(g) The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

(h) The term "Federal Trade Commission Act" means the Act entitled "An Act to create a Federal Trade Commission, to define its powers and duties, and for other purposes", approved September 26, 1914, as amended.

(i) The term "Fur Products Name Guide" means the register issued by the Commission pursuant to section 7 of this Act.

(j) The term "commerce" means commerce between any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, and any place outside thereof; or between points within the same State, Territory, or possession, or the District of Columbia, but through any place outside thereof; or within any Territory or possession or the District of Columbia.

(k) The term "United States" means the several States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories and possessions of the United States.

MISBRANDING, FALSE ADVERTISING, AND INVOICING DECLARED  
UNLAWFUL

SEC. 3. (a) The introduction, or manufacture for introduction, into commerce, or the sale, advertising or offering for sale in commerce, or the transportation or distribution in commerce, of any fur product which is misbranded or falsely or deceptively advertised or invoiced, within the meaning of this Act or the rules and regulations prescribed under section 8 (b), is unlawful and shall be an unfair method of competition, and an unfair and deceptive act or practice, in commerce under the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(b) The manufacture for sale, sale, advertising, offering for sale, transportation or distribution, of any fur product which is made in whole or in part of fur which has been shipped and received in commerce, and which is misbranded or falsely or deceptively advertised or invoiced, within the meaning of this Act or the rules and regulations prescribed under section 8 (b), is unlawful and shall be an unfair method of competition, and an unfair and deceptive act or practice, in commerce under the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(c) The introduction into commerce, or the sale, advertising or offering for sale in commerce, or the transportation or distribution in commerce, of any fur which is falsely or deceptively advertised or falsely or deceptively invoiced, within the meaning of this Act or the rules and regulations prescribed under section 8 (b), is unlawful and shall be an unfair method of competition, and an unfair and deceptive act or practice, in commerce under the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, it shall be unlawful to remove or mutilate, or cause or participate in the removal or mutilation of, prior to the time any fur product is sold and delivered to the ultimate consumer, any label required by this Act to be affixed to such fur product, and any person violating this subsection is guilty of an unfair method of competition, and an unfair or deceptive act or practice, in commerce under the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(e) Any person introducing, selling, advertising, or offering for sale, in commerce, or processing for commerce, a fur product, or any person selling, advertising, offering for sale or processing a fur product which has been shipped and received in commerce, may substitute for the label affixed to such product pursuant to section 4 of this Act, a label conforming to the requirements of such section, and such label may show in lieu of the name or other identification shown pursuant to section 4 (2) (E) on the label so removed, the name or other identification of the person making the substitution. Any person substituting a label shall keep such records as will show the information set forth on the label that he removed and the name or names of the person or persons from whom such fur product was received, and shall preserve such records for at least three years. Neglect or refusal to maintain and preserve such records is unlawful, and any person who shall fail to maintain and preserve such records shall forfeit to the United States the sum of \$100 for each day of such failure which shall accrue to the United States and be recoverable by a civil action. Any person substituting a label who shall fail to keep and preserve such records, or who shall by such substitution misbrand a fur product, shall be guilty of an unfair method of competition, and an unfair or deceptive act or practice, in commerce under the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(f) Subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall not apply to any common carrier, contract carrier or freight forwarder in respect of a fur product or fur shipped, transported, or delivered for shipment in commerce in the ordinary course of business.

#### MISBRANDED FUR PRODUCTS

SEC. 4. For the purposes of this Act, a fur product shall be considered to be misbranded—

(1) if it is falsely or deceptively labeled or otherwise falsely or deceptively identified, or if the label contains any form of misrepresentation or deception, directly or by implication, with respect to such fur product;

(2) if there is not affixed to the fur product a label showing in words and figures plainly legible—

(A) the name or names (as set forth in the Fur Products Name Guide) of the animal or animals that produced the fur, and such qualifying statement as may be required pursuant to section 7 (c) of this Act;

(B) that the fur product contains or is composed of used fur, when such is the fact;

(C) that the fur product contains or is composed of bleached, dyed, or otherwise artificially colored fur, when such is the fact;

(D) that the fur product is composed in whole or in substantial part of paws, tails, bellies, or waste fur, when such is the fact;

(E) the name, or other identification issued and registered by the Commission, of one or more of the persons who manufacture such fur product for introduction into commerce, introduce it into commerce, sell it in commerce, advertise or offer it for sale in commerce, or transport or distribute it in commerce;

(F) the name of the country of origin of any imported furs used in the fur product;

(3) if the label required by paragraph (2) (A) of this section sets forth the name or names of any animal or animals other than the name or names provided for in such paragraph.

## FALSE ADVERTISING AND INVOICING OF FUR PRODUCTS AND FURS

SEC. 5. (a) For the purposes of this Act, a fur product or fur shall be considered to be falsely or deceptively advertised if any advertisement, representation, public announcement, or notice which is intended to aid, promote, or assist directly or indirectly in the sale or offering for sale of such fur product or fur—

(1) does not show the name or names (as set forth in the Fur Products Name Guide) of the animal or animals that produced the fur, and such qualifying statement as may be required pursuant to section 7 (c) of this Act;

(2) does not show that the fur is used fur or that the fur product contains used fur, when such is the fact;

(3) does not show that the fur product or fur is bleached, dyed, or otherwise artificially colored fur when such is the fact;

(4) does not show that the fur product is composed in whole or in substantial part of paws, tails, bellies, or waste fur, when such is the fact;

(5) contains the name or names of any animal or animals other than the name or names specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection, or contains any form of misrepresentation or deception, directly or by implication, with respect to such fur product or fur;

(6) does not show the name of the country of origin of any imported furs or those contained in a fur product.

(b) For the purposes of this Act, a fur product or fur shall be considered to be falsely or deceptively invoiced—

(1) if such fur product or fur is not invoiced to show—

(A) the name or names (as set forth in the Fur Products Name Guide) of the animal or animals that produced the fur, and such qualifying statement as may be required pursuant to section 7 (c) of this Act;

(B) that the fur product contains or is composed of used fur, when such is the fact;

(C) that the fur product contains or is composed of bleached, dyed, or otherwise artificially colored fur, when such is the fact;

(D) that the fur product is composed in whole or in substantial part of paws, tails, bellies, or waste fur, when such is the fact;

(E) the name and address of the person issuing such invoice;

(F) the name of the country of origin of any imported furs or those contained in a fur product;

(2) if such invoice contains the name or names of any animal or animals other than the name or names specified in paragraph (1)

(A) of this subsection, or contains any form of misrepresentation or deception, directly or by implication, with respect to such fur product or fur.

## EXCLUSION OF MISBRANDED OR FALSELY INVOICED FUR PRODUCTS OR FURS

SEC. 6. (a) Fur products imported into the United States shall be labeled so as not to be misbranded within the meaning of section 4 of this Act; and all invoices of fur products and furs required under title IV of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, shall set forth, in addition to the



matters therein specified, information conforming with the requirements of section 5 (b) of this Act, which information shall be included in the invoices prior to their certification under the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

(b) The falsification of, or failure to set forth, said information in said invoices, or the falsification or perjury of the consignee's declaration provided for in the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, insofar as it relates to said information, shall be an unfair method of competition, and an unfair and deceptive act or practice, in commerce under the Federal Trade Commission Act; and any person who falsifies, or fails to set forth, said information in said invoices, or who falsifies or perjures said consignee's declaration insofar as it relates to said information, may thenceforth be prohibited by the Commission from importing, or participating in the importation of, any fur products or furs into the United States except upon filing bond with the Secretary of the Treasury in a sum double the value of said fur products and furs, and any duty thereon, conditioned upon compliance with the provisions of this section.

(c) A verified statement from the manufacturer, producer of, or dealer in, imported fur products and furs showing information required under the provisions of this Act may be required under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

#### NAME GUIDE FOR FUR PRODUCTS

SEC. 7. (a) The Commission shall, with the assistance and cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, within six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, issue, after holding public hearings, a register setting forth the names of hair, fleece, and fur-bearing animals, which shall be known as the Fur Products Name Guide. The names used shall be the true English names for the animals in question, or in the absence of a true English name for an animal, the name by which such animal can be properly identified in the United States.

(b) The Commission may, from time to time, with the assistance and cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior, after holding public hearings, add to or delete from such register the name of any hair, fleece, or fur-bearing animal.

(c) If the name of an animal (as set forth in the Fur Products Name Guide) connotes a geographical origin or significance other than the true country or place of origin of such animal, the Commission may require whenever such name is used in setting forth the information required by this Act, such qualifying statement as it may deem necessary to prevent confusion or deception.

#### ENFORCEMENT OF THE ACT

SEC. 8. (a) (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, sections 3, 6, and 10 (b) of this Act shall be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission under rules, regulations, and procedure provided for in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(2) The Commission is authorized and directed to prevent any person from violating the provisions of sections 3, 6, and 10 (b) of this Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the

*Federal Trade Commission Act were incorporated into and made a part of this Act; and any such person violating any provision of section 3, 6, or 10 (b) of this Act shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in said Federal Trade Commission Act as though the applicable terms and provisions of the said Federal Trade Commission Act were incorporated into and made a part of this Act.*

(b) *The Commission is authorized and directed to prescribe rules and regulations governing the manner and form of disclosing information required by this Act, and such further rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper for purposes of administration and enforcement of this Act.*

(c) *The Commission is authorized (1) to cause inspections, analyses, tests, and examinations to be made of any fur product or fur subject to this Act; and (2) to cooperate, on matters related to the purposes of this Act, with any department or agency of the Government; with any State, Territory, or possession, or with the District of Columbia; or with any department, agency, or political subdivision thereof; or with any person.*

(d) (1) *Every manufacturer or dealer in fur products or furs shall maintain proper records showing the information required by this Act with respect to all fur products or furs handled by him, and shall preserve such records for at least three years.*

(2) *The neglect or refusal to maintain and preserve such records is unlawful, and any such manufacturer or dealer who neglects or refuses to maintain and preserve such records shall forfeit to the United States the sum of \$100 for each day of such failure which shall accrue to the United States and be recoverable by a civil action.*

#### CONDEMNATION AND INJUNCTION PROCEEDINGS

**SEC. 9.** (a) (1) *Any fur product or fur shall be liable to be proceeded against in the district court of the United States for the district in which found, and to be seized for confiscation by process of libel for condemnation, if the Commission has reasonable cause to believe such fur product or fur is being manufactured or held for shipment, or shipped, or held for sale or exchange after shipment, in commerce, in violation of the provisions of this Act, and if after notice from the Commission the provisions of this Act with respect to such fur product or fur are not shown to be complied with. Proceedings in such libel cases shall conform as nearly as may be to suits in rem in admiralty, and may be brought by the Commission.*

(2) *If such fur products or furs are condemned by the court, they shall be disposed of, in the discretion of the court, by destruction, by sale, by delivery to the owner or claimant thereof upon payment of legal costs and charges and upon execution of good and sufficient bond to the effect that such fur or fur products will not be disposed of until properly marked, advertised, and invoiced as required under the provisions of this Act; or by such charitable disposition as the court may deem proper. If such furs or fur products are disposed of by sale, the proceeds, less legal costs and charges, shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts.*

(b) *Whenever the Commission has reason to believe that—*

(1) *any person is violating, or is about to violate, section 3, 6, or 10 (b) of this Act; and*

(2) it would be to the public interest to enjoin such violation until complaint is issued by the Commission under the Federal Trade Commission Act and such complaint dismissed by the Commission or set aside by the court on review, or until order to cease and desist made thereon by the Commission has become final within the meaning of the Federal Trade Commission Act, the Commission may bring suit in the district court of the United States or in the United States court of any Territory, for the district or Territory in which such person resides or transacts business, to enjoin such violation, and upon proper showing a temporary injunction or restraining order shall be granted without bond.

#### GUARANTY

SEC. 10. (a) No person shall be guilty under section 3 if he establishes a guaranty received in good faith signed by and containing the name and address of the person residing in the United States by whom the fur product or fur guaranteed was manufactured or from whom it was received, that said fur product is not misbranded or that said fur product or fur is not falsely advertised or invoiced under the provisions of this Act. Such guaranty shall be either (1) a separate guaranty specifically designating the fur product or fur guaranteed, in which case it may be on the invoice or other paper relating to such fur product or fur; or (2) a continuing guaranty filed with the Commission applicable to any fur product or fur handled by a guarantor, in such form as the Commission by rules and regulations may prescribe.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to furnish, with respect to any fur product or fur, a false guaranty (except a person relying upon a guaranty to the same effect received in good faith signed by and containing the name and address of the person residing in the United States by whom the fur product or fur guaranteed was manufactured or from whom it was received) with reason to believe the fur product or fur falsely guaranteed may be introduced, sold, transported, or distributed in commerce, and any person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of an unfair method of competition, and an unfair or deceptive act or practice, in commerce within the meaning of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

#### CRIMINAL PENALTY

SEC. 11. (a) Any person who willfully violates section 3, 6, or 10 (b) of this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than \$5,000, or be imprisoned not more than one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

(b) Whenever the Commission has reason to believe any person is guilty of a misdemeanor under this section, it shall certify all pertinent facts to the Attorney General, whose duty it shall be to cause appropriate proceedings to be brought for the enforcement of the provisions of this section against such person.

#### APPLICATION OF EXISTING LAWS

SEC. 12. The provisions of this Act shall be held to be in addition to, and not in substitution for or limitation of, the provisions of any other Act of Congress.

## SEPARABILITY OF PROVISIONS

*Sec. 13. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.*

## EFFECTIVE DATE

*Sec. 14. This Act, except section 7, shall take effect one year after the date of its enactment.*

And the Senate agree to the same.

LINDLEY BECKWORTH,  
J. PERCY PRIEST,  
OREN HARRIS,  
CHAS. A. WOLVERTON,  
JOS. P. O'HARA,

*Managers on the Part of the House.*

ED. C. JOHNSON,  
ERNEST W. McFARLAND

J.,  
WARREN G. MAGNUSON

J.,  
OWEN BREWSTER,  
HOMER E. CAPEHART,

*Managers on the Part of the Senate.*



## STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 2321) to protect consumers and others against misbranding, false advertising, and false invoicing of fur products and furs, submit the following statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the conferees and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

The Senate struck out all of the House bill after the enacting clause and inserted an amendment in the nature of a substitute. The House recedes from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, with an amendment which is a substitute for both the House bill and the Senate amendment.

While the Senate amendment was a complete substitute for the House bill the actual differences were few.

The following statement explains those provisions of the substitute agreed to in conference which differ from the bill as it passed the House:

### AUTHORITY TO SUBSTITUTE LABEL

Section 4 of the bill as it passed the House provided that a fur product should be considered to be misbranded unless there was affixed thereto a label giving certain specified information. Among the information required to be given was the name, or other identification issued and registered by the Federal Trade Commission, of one or more of the persons who manufacture the fur product for introduction into interstate commerce, introduce it into interstate commerce, sell it in interstate commerce, advertise or offer it for sale in interstate commerce, or transport or distribute it in interstate commerce.

Section 3 of the House bill prohibited the removal or mutilation of any such label, except that it was provided that any person introducing, selling, advertising, or offering for sale, in interstate commerce, or processing for interstate commerce, a fur product could substitute for the label affixed to the product a label conforming to the requirements of section 4, showing, in lieu of the name or other identification shown pursuant to section 4, the name or other identification of the person making the substitution. It was provided that any person making such a substitution should keep records showing the information on the label removed and the name of the person from whom the fur product was received.

The provisions of the Senate amendment were the same as those of the House bill, except that the privilege of label substitution was also given to an additional class of persons, that is, any person selling, advertising, or processing a fur product after the interstate movement had been completed.

The conference substitute, in section 3 (e), includes this feature from the Senate amendment, but in the interest of effective enforcement it is provided (1) that records as to substitution of labels shall

be preserved for 3 years; (2) that any person failing to keep the required records shall forfeit to the United States \$100 for each day of such failure, such penalty to be recoverable in a civil action; and (3) that failure to keep such records, or substitution of a label in such manner as to misbrand the fur product, shall constitute an unfair method of competition, and an unfair or deceptive act or practice, under the Federal Trade Commission Act.

## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Both the House bill and the Senate amendment provided that fur products shall be considered to be misbranded, and that furs or fur products shall be considered to be falsely or deceptively advertised or invoiced, unless certain specified information is shown in the labeling, advertising, or invoice. However, the Senate amendment contained requirements, not contained in the House bill, that the label, advertisement, or invoice show the name of the country of origin of any imported furs used in a fur product and that the advertisement or invoice show the name of the country of origin in the case of any imported fur. These requirements which were contained in the Senate amendment are included in sections 4 and 5 of the conference substitute.

LINDLEY BECKWORTH,  
J. PERCY PRIEST,  
OREN HARRIS,  
CHAS. W. WOLVERTON,  
JOS. P. O'HARA,

*Managers on the Part of the House.*

